

Gillibrand	McConnell	Scott (FL)
Grassley	Menendez	Scott (SC)
Hassan	Moran	Shaheen
Heinrich	Murkowski	Shelby
Hirono	Murphy	Sinema
Hoeben	Murray	Smith
Hyde-Smith	Perdue	Stabenow
Inhofe	Peters	Sullivan
Johnson	Portman	Tester
Jones	Reed	Thune
Kaine	Risch	Tillis
Kelly	Roberts	Toomey
King	Romney	Udall
Klobuchar	Rosen	Van Hollen
Lankford	Rubio	Warner
Leahy	Sasse	Whitehouse
Loeffler	Schatz	Wicker
Manchin	Schumer	Young

NAYS—13

Booker	Kennedy	Sanders
Braun	Lee	Warren
Cotton	Markey	Wyden
Cruz	Merkley	
Hawley	Paul	

NOT VOTING—3

Graham	Harris	Rounds
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The conference report is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021, AND OTHER EXTENSIONS ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 8900.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 8900) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, it is no great secret that the American people understand how far removed the U.S. Congress and both political parties are from their needs. They do polls out there, depending on the month, and Congress gets a 10-percent approval rating, and, on a good day, maybe a 20-percent approval rating.

People understand that, to a shameful degree, what Congress does is worry about the needs of wealthy campaign contributors—both political parties—and turns their backs on the needs of working people.

A few months ago, in Burlington, VT, not far from where I live, they shut down the road so that people could line up in their cars to get emergency food distributed by the Vermont National Guard—hundreds and hundreds of people in Burlington and all over the State of Vermont. And, by the way, Vermont probably is in better shape than most States in this country. We have more hunger in America today than at any time in the modern history of this country. This pandemic has been a disaster not only from a public health perspective but from an economic perspec-

tive, and economists tell us that working families today are in worse shape right now than at any time since the Great Depression.

And it is not just the children in America—the richest country on Earth—who are going hungry. You have millions and millions of families who are scared to death that they are going to be evicted from their homes and join the half a million people in America who are already homeless.

We have half of our population working day to day, living paycheck to paycheck, trying to survive. This Congress must address the economic emergency facing the American people. We cannot go back to our families during the Christmas holidays while tens of millions of families are suffering. They are looking toward us and their government—their government—to provide the emergency assistance that they need.

Yesterday, Senator HAWLEY and I introduced a very simple amendment—not a radical idea. In fact, we are way, way behind what other countries around the world are doing to protect their workers. All that we want to do is to once again provide the same benefits that were provided in the CARES bill that unanimously—unanimously, Democrats, Republicans—President Trump signed it, supported it. We all came together in March to say that every working-class adult in this country would get \$1,200 and their kids would get \$500.

So if you have a husband and wife and two kids, that is 3,400 bucks. Maybe they can use that money to pay a couple of months' rent, buy some food, go to the doctor. We are looking at a horrible pandemic now. You have 90 million people who are uninsured or underinsured. That is all we are asking—to do what we unanimously did in March, to make sure that our unemployed workers get the benefits they need to make sure that working families get that \$1,200 check per person.

Now, I have been here for a while. I am not one of the Members of the Senate who shuts down, does this and does that, and keeps people here for weeks. I don't do that. But this I want to say right now: I am prepared to withdraw my objection at this moment, but I will not be prepared to withdraw an objection next week. We will deal with the financial crisis facing tens of millions of Americans. And if I have anything to say about it—and I guess I do—we are not going to go home for the Christmas holidays unless we make sure that we provide for the millions of families in this country who are suffering.

With that, I would yield to Senator HAWLEY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, this is a very simple thing that we are talking about, and I can boil it down real easily.

If the Senate of the United States can find hundreds of billions of dollars

to give to big government and big business, surely it can find some relief for working families and working individuals. And I would just submit to you that it is working families and working people who should be first in line for COVID relief, not last.

That is why the amendment that Senator SANDERS and I have proposed is so common sense—\$1,200 for individuals, \$2,400 for families, \$500 for every child—and as Senator SANDERS rightly said, every Member of this body has voted yes, in favor of this relief before.

What is more, I can't figure who exactly is opposed to it. The President of the United States has said that he is in favor of direct assistance. I thank the majority leader for his own support of direct assistance. The Speaker of the House says she is in favor of direct assistance. And that is why there is no reason why this body should leave next week before we vote on and approve direct assistance to working families.

Now, let me just say one other thing. Let me tell you about a phone call I had with a friend of mine at home when this Congress approved direct assistance back in March. He texted me, and then he called me and he said: I am seeing this news about relief that we are going to maybe get a check. Is that real?

I said: Yeah, that is real.

He said: Well, I don't know. I am worried about taking it. I mean, what if we spend the money? I mean, we could use the money, but what if we spend it, and I can't pay it back? You know, it comes back and now I have got to pay it back?

I said: You don't have to pay it back. It is relief, because you need it, because you are working. This is a guy who works in concrete. That is his business.

And he said: Are you serious, now? You are serious that we can keep this money? I can use this for my family.

I said: That is exactly what it is for.

And his comment to me was—his words were: Man, this is a godsend.

There are families like that not just all over Missouri, not just all over Vermont, but all over this Nation, and they are in need today like they were in need in March. It is incumbent upon this body to act, and we should not leave until we do that.

So having reserved the right to object, today, I do not object.

I yield the floor.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I withdraw my objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. McCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the bill having been read the third time the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 8900) was passed.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. McCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAWLEY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO PAT ROBERTS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I join my colleagues in thanking Senator PAT ROBERTS of Kansas for his service to his State and our Nation.

Years ago, PAT ROBERTS and I served together on the House Agriculture Committee. We now serve together on the Senate Agriculture Committee. From our earliest days working together in House until today, PAT ROBERTS has been a consistent champion of Kansans and of farmers and people in small towns and rural communities across America.

Through his leadership, Senator ROBERTS has shepherded eight bipartisan farm bills into law. Farmers say that farm bills give them the certainty that they can count on. Farmers could rely on PAT ROBERTS for that certainty too.

PAT ROBERTS not only has worked to address the day-to-day challenges of agriculture, he also worked to prepare American farmers and ranchers for the future. From the creation of the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research in the 2014 farm bill to protecting agriculture from disease by modernizing and building the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility in Kansas, Senator ROBERTS knew the value in investing in research. Most recently, he joined me in the America Grows Act to increase Federal investments in basic USDA research across the board.

There is no doubt that Senator ROBERTS' legacy will reap benefits for years. But his commitment to rural communities didn't stop with farmers. In April 2018, I met with Illinois EMS

advocates. We talked about how rural EMS are on the frontlines in delivering quality emergency response, service coordination, and patient care. They spoke about how they were responding to the opioid epidemic and treating the emergency needs of an aging population. I became convinced that Congress needed to find a way to support rural EMS agencies with Federal funding so they could better serve their communities, but I needed a partner for it. The solution was obvious. I found Senator ROBERTS in the Senate gym and pitched him on the bill.

Within a few weeks, we introduced the Supporting and Improving Rural EMS Needs, or SIREN, Act. Senator DEBBIE STABENOW joined as a partner to the bill, and we started working hard to pass it. The SIREN Act was included in the 2018 farm bill. And this past summer, the first grant award went to Illinois when our healthcare providers needed it most for this pandemic.

For four decades, Senator ROBERTS has been a significant part of Federal agriculture policy. He is the only lawmaker to have chaired both the House and Senate Agriculture Committees. Farm bills don't happen without bipartisanship, and PAT's legacy of bipartisanship is something we should honor in the future.

It has been an honor and privilege, working with him. I will miss his bipartisan spirit and his dry wit. I wish him, his wife Franki, and their family happiness in his next chapter.

RECOGNIZING THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME RECIPIENT OF THE 2020 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this week's Nobel Peace Prize celebration in Oslo, Norway, is honoring the United Nations World Food Programme for its efforts to combat hunger, for its contributions to bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas and for acting as a driving force in efforts to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict.

I am proud to add my voice in congratulating this deeply important organization and the thousands of its heroic and courageous staff on this well-deserved honor.

In 1961, President Eisenhower called on the United Nations to address hunger, leading to the creation of the World Food Programme. Since then, the World Food Programme has provided lifesaving help in some of the world's most difficult places and conditions.

The United States remains a strong partner of the World Food Programme and one of its biggest funders. During my time in the Senate, I joined several of my colleagues such as the late Senator Dick Lugar and Senator BOB CASEY in strong bipartisan support for the organization and related efforts to combat hunger at home and abroad.

Today, the World Food Programme is the world's largest humanitarian orga-

nization and the leading global agency delivering food assistance in emergencies and working with communities to improve nutrition and build resilience. It provides more than 15 billion meals to 100 million people in more than 80 countries each year. Through war zones, floods, famines, and earthquakes, the World Food Programme is on the ground for those most in need, a ray of hope in the lives of the most vulnerable. It has truly earned recognition as "the world's first responder," as noted by U.N. Secretary General António Guterres.

Like all first responders, it did not hesitate to answer the call when the COVID-19 pandemic hit earlier this year. The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted every sector of life all over the world, adding another level of hardship on those in the midst of conflict and poverty and potentially doubling the number of people facing acute hunger to 270 million. But since the start of this emergency, the World Food Programme has continued providing relief to children and families in the mounting crisis.

While the need for food relief has drastically increased during the pandemic, hunger has long been used a tactic in conflicts around the world. Food supply chains are disrupted or humanitarian aid is restricted, essentially starving innocent civilians caught in the crossfire. In turn, starvation leads to more conflict over scarce resources. The link between food insecurity and conflict is clear: one fuels the other. And it is also clear that helping populations with emergency relief and long-term sustainability prevents millions of people from experiencing the horrors of starvation as a tactic of war and conflicts from erupting out of the desperation of hunger. Not only is it a moral responsibility to aid the world's most vulnerable, but it is in the best interest of the international community for a more secure world.

The World Food Programme is one of the best examples of the good that comes from global cooperation. From our American farmers working alongside farmers all over the world, to the staff on the ground, it takes many to help feed the world's poor. No country alone would be able to reach every corner of the globe, especially in the most entrenched of conflicts such as Yemen, Syria, and South Sudan. It is critical that the United States continues to support the World Food Programme, and I will continue to work to ensure that Congress provides the funds to do so.

While the global COVID pandemic is a setback in feeding the world, I am confident that the World Food Programme will help lead the way to alleviating the suffering. I again congratulate the World Food Programme and all of its staff for their courageous efforts.